

provisions of § 21.4261 or 21.4262; that is, October 24, 1982 or until age 31, whichever is earlier.

(9) The child may lose eligibility through ceasing to be the veteran's stepchild either because the veteran and the child's natural or adoptive parent divorce or because the veteran and the child's natural or adoptive parent separate and the child is no longer a member of the veteran's household. If this occurs, the ending date of the child's period of eligibility will be determined as follows:

(i) If the child ceases to be the veteran's stepchild while the child is not in training, the ending date of the child's eligibility shall be the date on which the child ceases to be the veteran's stepchild.

(ii) If the child ceases to be the veteran's stepchild while the child is in training in a school organized on a term, semester or quarter basis, the ending date of the child's eligibility will be the last date of the term, semester or quarter during which the child ceases to be the veteran's stepchild.

(iii) If the child ceases to be the veteran's stepchild while the child is in training in a school not organized on a term, semester or quarter basis, the ending date of the child's period of eligibility will be the end of the course or 12 weeks from the date on which the child ceases to be the veteran's stepchild, whichever is earlier. See § 21.3135(g).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 101(4)(a), 3501).

(e) *Extensions to ending dates.* (1) Suspension of program due to conditions determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs to have been beyond the person's control (see § 21.3043): extended for length of period of suspension, but not beyond age 31. See § 21.3040(d).

(2) Period of eligibility as specified in paragraph (c) or (d) of this section ends while enrolled in an educational institution regularly operated on the quarter or semester system and such period ends during a quarter or semester, such period shall be extended to the end of the quarter or semester, or for courses at educational institutions operated on other than a quarter or semester system, if the period ends after a major

portion of the course is completed, such period shall be extended to the end of the course, or until 12 weeks have expired, whichever first occurs. Extension may be authorized beyond age 31, but may not exceed maximum entitlement. See § 21.3044(a). No extension of the period of eligibility will be made where training is pursued in a training establishment as defined in § 21.4200(c).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3512(a)(5))

(3) Child is enrolled and eligibility ceases because veteran is no longer rated permanently and totally disabled: extended to date specified in paragraph (e)(2) of this section without regard to whether the midpoint of the quarter, semester or term has been reached. See § 21.4135(o).

(4) Child is enrolled and eligibility ceases because the member of the Armed Forces upon whose service eligibility is based is no longer listed by the Secretary concerned in any of the categories specified in § 21.3021(a)(1)(iv): extended to date specified in paragraph (e)(2) of this section without regard to whether the midpoint of the quarter, semester or term has been reached. See § 21.4135(o).

[30 FR 15632, Dec. 18, 1965, as amended at 31 FR 6773, May 6, 1966; 31 FR 13993, Nov. 2, 1966; 32 FR 13402, Sept. 23, 1967; 34 FR 842, Jan. 18, 1969; 39 FR 38228, Oct. 30, 1974; 40 FR 42879, Sept. 17, 1975; 41 FR 47929, Nov. 1, 1976; 43 FR 35290, Aug. 9, 1978; 48 FR 57275, Dec. 29, 1983; 54 FR 31952, Aug. 3, 1989; 54 FR 42501, Oct. 17, 1989; 61 FR 26108, May 24, 1996]

#### § 21.3042 Service with Armed Forces.

(a) No educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 35 may be provided an otherwise eligible person during any period he or she is on duty with the Armed Forces. See § 21.3021 (e) and (f). This does not apply to brief periods of active duty for training. See § 21.3135(f).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3501(d))

(b) If the eligible person served with the Armed Forces, his or her discharge or release from each period of service must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3501(d))

(c) The term *unconditional discharge*, as used in § 21.3041 means unconditional

discharge or release from duty with the Armed Forces. See §3.13 of this chapter.

[30 FR 15633, Dec. 18, 1965, as amended at 34 FR 842, Jan. 18, 1969; 36 FR 2508, Feb. 5, 1971; 41 FR 42929, Nov. 1, 1976; 61 FR 26109, May 24, 1996]

#### **§ 21.3043 Suspension of program; child.**

For an eligible person who suspends his program due to conditions determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs to have been beyond his or her control the period of eligibility may, upon his request, be extended by the number of months and days intervening the date the suspension began and the date the reason for suspension ceased to exist. The burden of proof is on the eligible person to establish that suspension of a program was due to conditions beyond his or her control. The period of suspension shall be considered to have ended as of the date of the person's first available opportunity to resume training after the condition which caused it ceased to exist. The following circumstances may be considered as beyond the eligible person's control:

(a) While in active pursuit of a program of education he or she is appointed by the responsible governing body of an established church, officially charged with the selection and designation of missionary representatives, in keeping with its traditional practice, to serve the church in an official missionary capacity and is thereby prevented from pursuit of his or her program of studies.

(b) Immediate family or financial obligations beyond his or her control require the eligible person to take employment, or otherwise preclude pursuit of his or her program.

(c) Unavoidable conditions arising in connection with the eligible person's employment which preclude pursuit of his or her program.

(d) Pursuit of his or her program is precluded because of the eligible person's own illness or illness or death in his or her immediate family.

(e) Active duty, including active duty for training in the Armed Forces.

[41 FR 47929, Nov. 1, 1976]

#### **§ 21.3044 Entitlement.**

(a) *Limitations on entitlement.* Each eligible person is entitled to educational assistance not in excess of 45 months, or the equivalent thereof in part-time training. The Department of Veterans Affairs will not authorize an extension of entitlement except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section. The period of entitlement when added to education or training received under any or all of the laws cited in §21.4020 will not exceed 48 months of full-time educational assistance. The period of entitlement will not be reduced by any period during which employment adjustment allowance was paid after the eligible person completes a period of rehabilitation and reaches a point of employability.

(b) *Continuous pursuit is not required.* The 45-month period of entitlement is any 45 months within the period of eligibility. The eligible person is not required to pursue his or her program for 45 consecutive months.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3511(a))

(c) *Exceeding the 45 months limitation.* The 45 months limitation may be exceeded only in the following cases:

(1) Where no charge against the entitlement is made based on a course or courses pursued by a spouse or surviving spouse under the special assistance for the educationally disadvantaged program (See §21.3344(d); or

(2) Where special restorative training authorized under §21.3300 exceeds 45 months.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3541(b), 3533(b))

[49 FR 48692, Dec. 14, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 26109, May 24, 1996]

#### **§ 21.3045 Entitlement charges.**

VA will make charges against an eligible person's entitlement only when required by this section. Charges for institutional training will be based upon the principle that an eligible person who trains full time for 1 day should be charged 1 day of entitlement.

(a) *No entitlement charge for eligible persons receiving tutorial assistance.* VA